

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 266188

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, BR

SUBJECT: LETTER TO THE SECRETARY FROM FOREIGN MINISTER

SILVEIRA

1. THE FOLLOWING LETTER DATED NOVEMBER 30 FROM FOREIGN
MINISTER SILVEIRA TO THE SECRETARY WAS DELIVERED
DECEMBER 2.

2. BEGIN TEXT: MY DEAR HENRY, I HAD THE GREAT PLEASURE
OF RECEIVING, HERE IN GENEVA, WHERE I HAVE BEEN FOR TWO
DAYS EN ROUTE TO LISBON, YOUR LETTER CONCERNING PRESIDENT
FORD'S VISIT TO JAPAN, SOUTH KOREA AND THE SOVIET UNION.
I HAD INTENDED TO WRITE TO YOU ABOUT THE POLICY PLANNING
TALKS, BUT IT HAPPENED THAT THEIR TERMINATION OCCURRED ON
THE EVE OF MY DEPARTURE FOR SENEGAL. I BELIEVE, AS YOU DO,
THAT THE CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO TEAMS WERE USEFUL
AND FRANK - A GOOD BEGINNING.

3. MY STAY IN SENEGAL WAS QUITE GRATIFYING- BESIDES THE
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MEETING, OVER WHICH I-PRESIDED, OF ALL THE BRAZILIAN -

AMBASSADORS AND CONSULS IN SUB-SAHARIAN AFRICA, THE VISIT TO SENEGAL PROVIDED THE OPPORTUNITY FOR A FIRST DIRECT CONTACT WITH THE CONTINENT OF NEGRITUDE, WHICH, AS YOU ARE WELL AWARE, IS UNDERGOING DEEP TRANSFORMATIONS. I BELIEVE THAT THE SENSE OF REALISM THAT MARKS BRAZIL'S CURRENT FOREIGN POLICY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD HAS CONSTITUTED A POSITIVE ELEMENT IN THE CONVERSATIONS I HAVE MAINTAINED, IN BRAZIL AND ABROAD, WITH FOREIGN LEADERS. I BELIEVE THEREFORE, THAT MY MESSAGE WAS UNDERSTOOD IN SENEGAL ALSO THIS BEING REFLECTED IN THE COMMUNIQUE WHICH I SIGNED WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ASSANE SECK IN DAKAR.

4. THE CHANGES THAT ARE OCCURRING IN AFRICA SHOULD NOT, I FEEL SURE, LEAD TO SIMPLISTIC EXCESSES, WHICH ARE ALWAYS CONDUCIVE TO UNCERTAIN GROUND AND TEND TO RESULT IN DIFFICULTIES. THE AFRICAN LEADERS KNOW - AND I LEFT THIS VERY CLEAR IN MY CONVERSATIONS WITH PRESIDENT SENGHOR AND MINISTER ASSANE SECK - THAT, UNDER THAT MANTLE OF UNITY WHICH THE AFRICAN POSITIONS USUALLY SEEK TO REFLECT, THERE EXIST DIFFERENCES THAT EFFECTIVELY GENERATE DIFFICULTIES SUCH AS THOSE WHICH WE BOTH KNOW ARE NOW BEING FACED BY AFRICA. NOT THAT SUCH DIFFERENCES ARE ALIEN TO OTHER REGIONS, INCLUDING LATIN AMERICA. THERE ARE, HOWEVER, CERTAIN ASPECTS OF FOREIGN POLICY AND OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS WHICH MUST BE ELIMINATED FROM THE ANALYSES THAT ARE BEING MADE, AND THE EXCESS OF SIMPLICISM, I AM CONVINCED, IS ONE OF THEM.

5. I HOPE TO HEAR AGAIN FROM YOU SOON, AND LOOK FORWARD WITH PLEASURE TO OUR MEETING EARLY NEXT YEAR. CORDIAL GREETINGS, ANTONIO. END TEXT.

6. PORTUGUESE VERSION OF LETTER BEING POUCED. KISSINGER

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